

# Regional Forum on Sustainable Infrastructure

## Opening Panel Discussion: Overview of Sustainability Programs in Portland, Seattle and Vancouver

	Portland	Seattle	Vancouver
<b>Sustainability Office</b>	<p>Office of Sustainable Development includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ solid waste and recycling programs</li> <li>♦ technical assistance in green building &amp; energy</li> <li>♦ research &amp; policy</li> </ul> <p>28 FTE</p> <p>Reports to a City Commissioner</p> <p><a href="http://www.sustainableportland.org">www.sustainableportland.org</a></p>	<p>Office of Sustainability &amp; Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Provides the leadership, tools, and information to help the City government and other organizations use natural resources efficiently, prevent pollution, and improve the economic, environmental, and social well-being of current and future generations.</li> <li>♦ Works with City departments and other partners to facilitate and coordinate implementation of the City's Environmental Action Agenda</li> </ul> <p>4.5 FTE</p> <p>Reports to Mayor</p> <p><a href="http://www.seattle.gov/environment">www.seattle.gov/environment</a></p>	<p>Sustainability Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Core staff team that leads and supports the sustainability activities across all departments with a large interdepartmental team liaison group – more “decentralized” model than Seattle or Portland</li> <li>♦ Currently hiring a civic employee sustainability programs coordinator and Energy Performance Contract Management Coordinator.</li> </ul> <p>3 FTE and growing</p> <p>Reports to City Manager via the Sustainability Steering Committee (described below) of Dept. General Managers</p> <p><a href="http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/sustainability">www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/sustainability</a></p>
<b>Policy Guidance and Plans</b>	<p>Adopted sustainability principles.</p> <p>No overarching sustainability plan. Sustainability agenda is articulated in a number of City plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>River Renaissance</b> (development plan including nature, industry, recreation and waterfront neighborhoods)</li> <li>♦ <b>Local Action Plan on Global Warming</b></li> <li>♦ <b>Green Building Strategy</b></li> <li>♦ <b>Sustainable Procurement Strategy</b></li> </ul> <p>A few bureaus have created environmental management or sustainability programs or plans. All bureaus are developing plans addressing paper use reduction and paper specifications.</p> <p>Portland Parks and Recreation manages parks and greenspaces management in compliance with a <b>Salmon Safe certification</b> system.</p>	<p><b>Mayor's Environmental Action Agenda</b> includes goals, targets, and priorities for action and investment in four areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Lean, green city government: City government will lead by example with practices that save money and improve the health of people and the environment.</li> <li>♦ Healthy urban environments: Improve Seattle's quality of life, protect the environment, and enhance neighborhood livability</li> <li>♦ Strong environmental practices: Encourage residents, businesses and other institutions to use resources more efficiently and adopt environmentally responsible practices</li> <li>♦ Smart mobility: Improve mobility by promoting transportation choices that make our neighborhoods safer and healthier</li> </ul>	<p>Adopted definition and principles of sustainability, with strong Council direction to pursue sustainability across the City roles.</p> <p>All City departments working to incorporate sustainability objectives into planning, policies and programs. Sustainability Group is working with all departments to develop both a <b>Sustainability Report</b> and a “<b>Strategic Sustainability Action Plan</b>” for the City – target spring 2005 for completion.</p> <p>Related projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Corporate Climate Change Plan</b> (<a href="http://www.coolvancouver.ca">www.coolvancouver.ca</a>)</li> <li>♦ <b>Draft Community Climate Change Action Plan</b> (in consultation until Dec 2004)</li> <li>♦ <b>Draft ethical/sustainable procurement policy</b> (project underway under Council direction)</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainability Committees</b>	<p><b>Inter-departmental committees</b> address specific issues: purchasing, green building, infrastructure (more detail below), the River Renaissance program.</p> <p><b>Sustainable Development Commission:</b> citizen advisory group to both City and County. Current focus areas include food policy, renewable energy, infrastructure and toxics reduction.</p>	<p><b>Urban Sustainability Advisory Panel:</b> Guides implementation of the City's environmental action agenda and sustainable development initiatives. The USAP is comprised of members from the private and public sectors and the group meets quarterly.</p> <p><b>Environmental Coordinating Committee:</b> Coordinates activities between different City departments related to sustainability issues. The ECC is comprised of members from all the City departments. Green Building Team: Coordinates and implements the City's Sustainable Building Policy.</p>	<p><b>Sustainability Steering Committee:</b> General managers (or representatives) from Engineering, Community Services, Park Board</p> <p><b>Inter-departmental Staff Sustainability Committee (Sustainability Sponsor Group):</b> 18 members; monthly meetings; coordinate and champion sustainability work across all city departments.</p>

	Portland	Seattle	Vancouver
<b>Sustainable infrastructure initiatives</b>	<p><b>Sustainable Infrastructure Team</b> : inter-departmental group; meets monthly; provides ongoing forum to share information and expertise about policies, products and practices. Last year, the SI Team assembled three task forces to study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Stormwater Reuse and Water Efficiency</li> <li>◆ Alternative Paving Materials</li> <li>◆ Streetscape.</li> </ul> <p>The task forces prepared findings and recommendations, identifying pilot projects and programs being considered by the infrastructure bureaus.</p> <p>Education was identified as a fourth pilot project. Sustainability training was provided for over 100 City staff in the four infrastructure bureaus. The SI Team is currently working with a consultant to develop sustainability training for fall 2004.</p> <p><b>Sustainable Stormwater Management Program</b> : promotes onsite surface stormwater management, as close to the source as possible, using landscape techniques and pervious technologies. Projects include water quality friendly streets,</p>	<p><b>Working at neighborhood scale to incorporate sustainable infrastructure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ South Lake Union: making pedestrian and bike friendly neighborhood; incorporating sustainable features in parks; evaluating innovative stormwater and drainage solutions; creating green streets in area; establishing incentives for green building; evaluating new energy conservation measures.</li> <li>◆ Northgate: Putting in place natural drainage system; incorporating green building into redevelopment; evaluating green streetscapes.</li> <li>◆ Tools: Developing scorecard for evaluating sustainable features at neighborhood scale.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Southeast False Creek and Olympic Village</b> : model high-density sustainable urban development.</li> <li>◆ <b>Urban Forestry</b>. Cares for 1.5 million trees in parks and 128,000 on the City's streets; plants 3400 street trees annually.</li> <li>◆ <b>Biofiltration Projects</b> : Park Board and Engineering Services have cooperated on the creation of systems that cleanse stormwater for application in Parks facilities.</li> <li>◆ <b>Stormwater Re-use</b>: Projects that re-direct storm water into City parks/golf courses to supplement water irrigation demands.</li> <li>◆ <b>Infiltration Catch Basins</b> : The City is installing infiltration catch basins to permit percolation of water into the ground as part of the stormwater conveyance system.</li> <li>◆ <b>Greener streets (see below)</b></li> <li>◆ <b>Combined storm/sanitary sewer separation project.</b></li> <li>◆ <b>Significant solid waste infrastructure and programs in recycling, composting and landfill gas capture.</b></li> <li>◆ <b>Many transportation related initiatives</b></li> <li>◆ <b>Alternative energy systems</b> under discussion through Community Climate Change Action Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Innovative street projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Siskiyou</b>: a street vegetated swale retrofit project)</li> <li>◆ <b>Division St. New Seasons Market</b>: working with the community and a private developer on a street vegetated planter, parking lot swale and roof disconnect package</li> <li>◆ <b>Winkler</b>: daylighting at the headwaters of a buried stream)</li> <li>◆ <b>Eco-roof projects</b></li> <li>◆ <b>Buckman/OMSI/South Waterfront</b>: retrofit stormwater planters and swales) examples</li> <li>◆ <b>Alternative Paving Pilot Projects</b> : testing of pervious concrete, pavers and asphalt in ROWs and parking lots.</li> <li>◆ <b>Transportation capital projects</b> : green street improvements ID'd in planning phase</li> </ul>	<p><b>Street Edge Alternative. SEA streets</b> : achieved a 98% reduction in stormwater runoff.</p> <p>Green streets: Redoing green streets design guidelines and initiating two pilot projects to incorporate new ideas into street design</p> <p>Highpoint and Northgate: incorporating natural drainage into two neighborhood projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Country Lanes</b> : permeable paving (reinforced turf and other materials) has been installed in several lanes throughout the City.</li> <li>◆ <b>Crown Street</b>: a pilot project is being pursued for an innovative street adjacent a salmon stream.</li> <li>◆ <b>Stream Enhancement and runoff management</b>: Stream day lighting and enhancements are supported throughout the City, in particular through a multi-jurisdictional urban watershed planning project for the <b>Still Creek Watershed</b>.</li> <li>◆ <b>Greenway network</b> – a network of redesigned streets across the city as “greenways” designed around bicycle and pedestrian needs.</li> <li>◆ <b>Blooming Blvds</b> – a program to support community involvement in gardening in city blvds, traffic circles and other street-related areas.</li> <li>◆ <b>Extensive traffic calming initiatives</b></li> </ul>

	Portland	Seattle	Vancouver
<b>Sustainable building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ All new/renovated City buildings directed to meet LEED™ certified standard.</li> <li>◆ Green Investment Fund provides grants for residential and commercial green building projects.</li> <li>◆ ReThink professional training program</li> <li>◆ Annual Green Show of Homes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ All new/renovated City buildings directed to meet Silver LEED™</li> <li>◆ LEED/BuiltGreen incentive program: Provide financial assistance to projects pursuing LEED/BuiltGreen</li> <li>◆ IMPLEMENT: Created an online sustainable design tool</li> <li>◆ Working with public &amp; private sector partners to create a Sustainable Development Center to promote sustainable practices in the built environment through education and demonstration.</li> <li>◆ SeaGreen: developers who build sustainable affordable housing (beyond code) have access to funding assistance</li> <li>◆ Lighting design lab provides technical assistance of lighting issues</li> <li>◆ Sustainable Building Advisor Certificate program at Seattle Central Community College</li> <li>◆ Major Housing Authority housing redevelopments</li> <li>◆ Brochures; Web sites; forums; demonstration sites. Developing programs to communicate benefits of “green” building to developers, owners, and tenants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Southeast False Creek (SEFC)</b> – a model high density sustainable urban development on an 80 acre downtown waterfront brownfield site – more sustainable policies from this project are now filtering out into many other megaprojects</li> <li>◆ <b>2010 Winter Olympic Athlete Housing</b> in SEFC to be “green”</li> <li>◆ <b>Green building policy:</b> (LEED™ / LEED™ certifiable plus) in draft form for Council's consideration in summer 2004 – recommending SEFC bldgs and all future Civic bldgs to be minimum of LEED Silver with a minimum increase in energy efficiency of 20%.</li> <li>◆ <b>Low flow fixtures</b> required in all new buildings.</li> <li>◆ <b>In the process of updating City's energy efficiency bylaw</b> to ASHRAE 90.1 (2001).</li> <li>◆ <b>Working on larger green development promotion program</b> for all development applications</li> <li>◆ <b>City Facilities showing leadership in “green” directions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Materials Testing Facility</b> a green bldg with significant use of recycled materials</li> <li>◆ <b>New City Works Yard</b> bldg just opened will achieve LEED Silver/Gold</li> <li>◆ <b>Others</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Other selected accomplishments</b>	<p><b>Transportation Options Division:</b> promotes carpool, transit, walking and cycling. Recent programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ TravelSmart individualized marketing pilot project – achieved a 9% reduction in trips and a 12% reduction in vehicle miles travelled in the target area.</li> <li>◆ CarpoolmatchNW, an online ridematching service.</li> </ul> <p><b>Maintenance Bureau Practices:</b> examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Environmental Section staff (1.5 FTE) to support and encourage sustainability and provide research support and information to identify solutions with managers and sections.</li> <li>◆ Recycling of leaves, asphalt, concrete, and other street maintenance materials.</li> <li>◆ Solar and wind power projects</li> <li>◆ Trench-less technology: no-dig sewer repairs</li> <li>◆ Switch to environmentally-friendly products, paints and cleaning supplies when available</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pesticide Reduction Program</b> : works with city departments to (1) eliminate the use of the most potentially hazardous herbicides and insecticides and (2) achieve a 30 percent reduction in overall pesticide use.</p> <p><b>Clean Green Fleet Plan</b> : Goal of 100% clean and green fleet. Reduced fuels use and reduced emissions</p> <p><b>Seattle City Light:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Zero net greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>◆ All load growth met with conservation and renewables</li> <li>◆ Strong energy codes</li> <li>◆ Millions invested annually in energy efficiency</li> </ul> <p>Smart growth and densification including focus on affordable housing</p> <p>Established natural drainage programs</p> <p>Sustainable purchasing policy that has increased purchasing of environmentally-friendly products</p> <p>Curbside recycling: mandatory paper recycling in commercial sector</p>	<p><b>Solid Waste</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Recycling - 50% diversion since 1994</li> <li>◆ Landfill gas capture / cogen – 200,000 tonnes CO2/yr</li> </ul> <p><b>Percolation Policy for Single Family Areas:</b> limits impervious surface coverage to 60 percent of the site in single family areas</p> <p><b>Community gardens:</b> operate in many park spaces in the city for higher density housing areas.</p> <p><b>Food Policy Task Force</b> created by council to establish food-related policy and programs in the city.</p> <p><b>Significant number of social sustainability-related initiatives, programs and facilities.</b></p> <p><b>A range of programs and policy to “green” City operations, facilities, and fleets .</b></p>

